



NEW ZEALAND
CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES

CALM newsletter

Part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
Winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize

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Editorial By CALM Convenor, Deborah Morris-Travers

The recent London bombings came on the eve of New Zealanders marking the 20th anniversary of the Rainbow Warrior affair - both events reminding us how tenuous human security can be.

The Rainbow Warrior bombing on 10 July 1985 was an act of state-sponsored terrorism designed to cripple civil society efforts to highlight nuclear testing in the South Pacific. It had the opposite effect. Greenpeace activists, New Zealand citizens and our government, and anti-nuclear campaigners around the world became more committed than ever to see an end to nuclear testing and make this part of the world nuclear-free. Ultimately, the French government suffered embarrassment for more than just nuclear testing.

In much the same way, whatever the responsible parties wanted to achieve by bombing London may well deliver opposite and unanticipated results. What we can anticipate is that G8 leaders will react with even more commitment to the so-called war on terror.

In the face of this and any other consequences flowing from these unfortunate events, civil society has an important role in the scrutiny of new policies and the attendant political rhetoric.

We must stay committed to political activism that seeks improved multilateral processes and reinforces efforts to achieve social, economic and political change in the interests of improved human security. This is about individual and collective activism with integrity.

And while world leaders may not like what we have to say in our scrutiny of their actions, with the attention and commitment of active groups of citizens new political solutions can be progressed.

Our efforts to improve security by eliminating anti-personnel landmines and other explosive remnants of war are an important contribution to the global environment.

Keep up your good work ... and please write to your MPs about cluster munitions !

Please join CALM and help to spread its campaign message through these newsletters. These cost about \$10 per person per year to prepare and despatch so donations to the CALM Treasurer, PO Box 17 195, Wellington would be appreciated.

6th Intersessional meetings

The 6th Intersessional Standing Committee meetings on the Mine Ban Treaty were held in Geneva in mid-June. Speaking at the opening of the meetings, International Campaign to Ban Landmines Ambassador, Jody Williams, set the tone of the week with a vibrant appeal to participants to not only SPEAK about action but also to TAKE action to fulfil the promise of the Nairobi Summit Action Plan.

Jody recalled that ending the suffering caused by antipersonnel landmines once and for all means a MINE FREE WORLD, a world in which all mined areas are cleared. ICBL called on States Parties to strengthen and strategically coordinate their efforts to encourage signatories to complete the ratification process, and non States Parties to join, and adopt interim measures to show their willingness to comply with the norm the Convention established.

Jody Williams also said, "We must all be very clear that meeting the needs of landmine survivors is not just a humanitarian gesture, it is a treaty compliance issue."

The chair of the ICBL's Treaty Working Group, Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch (HRW), spoke about interpretation issues (Article 1); mines retained for training (Article 3); and compliance concerns (Article 8), especially with respect to

mine clearance obligations (Article 5).

Steve Goose described the inability of States Parties to reach common understandings on these articles as well some of their "greatest failures" from the past five years of work.

Some of the issues of concern to the ICBL:

- Increase in mine-victims due to downscaled Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities and lack of funds for MRE.
- How should Governments and operators deal with village/ farmer/ community de-mining that does not follow reporting standards
- Uncertainty on the non handover of cleared land in Thailand
- Angola stated that while it planned to meet its destruction deadline of 1 January 2007, if it encountered difficulties, it would ask for an extension; however, the Mine Ban Treaty has no provision for extending the stockpile destruction deadline.
- Australia stated that its national legislation permits its armed forces to provide security to non-States Parties engaged in prohibited acts (Article 1).
- No government spoke on compliance (Article 8), one (Australia) spoke under Article 1 and only a couple spoke on mines functioning like antipersonnel mines (Article 2).

New Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) website

The new CMC website is now online at www.stopclustermunitions.org.

The new site's campaign resources include an interactive map with automatic email tool; sample letters to governments; briefing for MPs; and will soon include 1 page campaign documents with victim stories and photographs.

Help ban cluster bombs - Write to your Member of Parliament!

Recently, the New Zealand government has participated in a number of meetings with like-minded states interested in progressing new international humanitarian law on cluster munitions. The government has also indicated a willingness to ratify Protocol V of the Convention on Convention Weapons on Explosive Remnants of War.

It is time for CALM members to take up their pens or hit their keyboards and help us convince the government to take decisive action on cluster munitions. It is time for action. Attached to this newsletter is a list of key points about clusters to assist in the preparation of letters to your Members of Parliament. You can also visit the new CMC website for more information.

MPs who are priority targets for communication include:

Rt Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister

Hon Phil Goff, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon Mark Burton, Minister of Defence

Hon Marian Hobbs, Minister for Disarmament

Hon Peter Dunne, Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee

However, we really need to ensure all MPs understand the need for a moratorium on the use of cluster bombs and the rationale for new international humanitarian law. So, please write to as many MPs as you can - including your local electorate and list MPs.

Address you correspondence to:

(name) MP

Parliament Buildings

Private Bag

Wellington

And remember ... no stamp required!

News flash: Universalisation progress

On May 27, the Vanuatu Parliament agreed to ratify the Mine Ban Treaty. Domestic legislation to give effect to the Treaty must first be gazetted and then ratification instruments will be sent to the United Nations.

In 2003, the New Zealand government sponsored a non-governmental representative from the Vanuatu Disabled Persons Assembly, Andy Piau-Lynch, to attend the 5th Meeting of States Parties in Bangkok. Subsequently Andy has been active in advocating for her government to ratify the Treaty.

In response to our request for information for the Landmine Monitor, we received news from the Federated States of Micronesia that their long-running review of the Treaty has now been completed and the government is moving towards ratification. They expect to submit the treaty for ratification by the Congress at the next session in September 2005. The Federated States of Micronesia said, "We look forward to being a part of this important humanitarian treaty."

At the Intersessional meetings, the Ukraine announced that its national parliament unanimously ratified the Convention on 18 May 2005, while Latvia reported that on 19 May its parliament approved the country's accession to the Convention. Bhutan announced its national assembly is expected to approve accession to the Convention in the coming weeks.

50 km walk - 50 people needed - 50 landmine survivors assisted

Can you walk / run 50 km?....or 25 km?

GOAL: To raise funds for 50 new legs for landmine survivors on THAILAND's borders

50 PEOPLE NEEDED: (or a team of 2 persons completing 25 km each)

COURSE: Karori Swimming Pool to Porirua Aquatic Pool and return.
(Showers and drinks available at each pool)

Date and times:

LABOUR WEEKEND: Sunday 23rd October, (Rain Day Monday 24th October.)

Suggested start times: Slow walkers 8.00.a.m. Walking Teams. 10.30.a.m.

Medium runners 11.15 a.m Faster runners 12 noon

Aim to arrive back at Karori Pool between 4.30.pm and 5.00 pm.

ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW: 5.30 pm - Complimentary Drinks - View a display of photos of Chiang Mai Prosthetic Centre - Enjoy live entertainment from a Thai Cultural dance group.

Dinner:

6.00pm - 7.30pm

Formal Thai Dinner (free)

Compliments of Wellington Thai Community

At Karori Hall

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: Donation of \$50.00 to Chiang Mai Prosthetic Foundation, which will obtain a new leg for a landmine victim. Payable on registration.

We encourage each entrant to obtain the \$50 entry fee from 10 friends at \$5.00 each
(This will assist our aim to publicise the plight of Landmine survivors)

Entrants' family can attend the dinner on request - (Koha welcome)

QUESTIONS/REGISTRATION:

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Khun Nattaya (Leang) Payanon. Phone 476 8305 (evenings)

Belgium moves towards banning cluster munitions

On 28 June, Handicap International (HI) briefed the Belgian senate on the subject of sub-munitions and supported a proposal by senator Philippe Mahoux to ban all sub-munitions. Other speakers included representatives of the Belgian Red Cross societies, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Defense.

Representatives of most political parties attended the briefing and took part in the discussion. On July 5, the Belgian Senate's Commission for External Relations and Defense accepted draft legislation that bans submunitions.

The draft law is scheduled for debate in plenary in the week of 11 July. If Belgium passes this law it will be the first state to legislate for a domestic ban on clusters.

Peace begins in the home

The debate about repeal of section 59 of the Crimes Act 1961 was reinvigorated when Green MP Sue Bradford's Crimes (Abolition of Force as a Justification for Child Discipline) Amendment Bill was drawn from the Member's Bill ballot recently. The Bill will be introduced to parliament in late July.

Section 59 provides a legal defense in situations when charges are brought against parents or caregivers for assaulting their child. Its repeal is not about criminalising ordinary parents. It will simply remove a legal defense that is used when parents seriously assault their children - a defense that is not available in situations of assault against adults, animals or any other group in our society.

International evidence shows that physical punishment teaches children to use violence in problem solving and is not an effective form of discipline. Physical punishment is a risk factor for child abuse and international evidence shows:

1. The harm to children caused by physical punishment;
2. The vastly increased likelihood of child abuse in homes where physical punishment is used;
3. The need for governments to convey consistent messages about the unacceptability of physical punishment; and
4. That physical punishment is less effective than positive parenting strategies for disciplining children.

A number of groups, including Plunket, the Children's Commission, the Family Law Society, and the Families Commission have expressed their support for repeal of section 59 as a step towards addressing New Zealand's wider culture of violence. Peace begins in the home.

The introduction to Parliament of the Member's Bill provides an opportunity for New Zealand to have a much-needed debate about the use of violence in the parenting of children and whether or not it is appropriate or necessary for the legal defense to remain. Hopefully, MPs will support the Bill to Select Committee so that these issues can be thoroughly considered.

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